

BONUS FOR HITTING IS WISH OF LAJOIE



Napoleon Lajoie of Cleveland.

Napoleon Lajoie never has been known to complain regarding the salary paid him by Charles W. Somers, but it is quite likely that he wishes that during all the time he has worked for the Naps their liberal owner had offered him a bonus such as Joe Jackson has been proffered this season.

Jackson, according to rumor, is to get so much if he hits above .400, so much if he hits above .375, and so much if he hits above .350. Never having hit below the last-named mark since he has been in the American league, the chances are that J. J. will earn at least one of the extra sums his contract calls for, even if the Cincinnati base hit has been abolished.

Look what Lajoie would have had, however, in the way of extra remuneration had his contract called for more

money in the event of his hitting above .350, .375, or .400. In 1901, working for Connie Mack, he piled up an average of .422, still the high-water mark for the American league, and only approached by Ty Cobb in 1911, the year he was accounted the most valuable player in the younger organization. Cobb hit .420 that year, and .410 the next; Joe Jackson having an average of .408 in 1911, and Charley ("Duke") Farrell an average of .404 in 1912.

During two years of his employment by Somers Larry has hit better than .375 and in five years better than .350. Cobb has been above the last-named mark six times, Hans Wagner five times, Joe Jackson four times, Tris Speaker, Ed Delahanty, Olaf Henriksen and Mike Donlin twice each.

USED CURVE BALL BUT ONCE

Pitcher Harry Gaspar Hoodwinked Manager Clarke Griffith While With Cincinnati Team.

Harry Gaspar, who pitched for Clarke Griffith a few years ago, broke into fast company because he learned Griffith's weakness was a curve ball pitcher, and was wise enough to take advantage of it.

Griffith, while manager for the Cincinnati club, had practically picked his twirling corps for the season. There was some doubt about Gaspar catching on. Gaspar was a wise old owl, and had plenty of pluck, but didn't have a curve ball.

"If Gaspar shows me a curve before the seasons opens, he'll land," said Griffith.

Somebody tipped this off to Gaspar, and Harry got busy. It wasn't much of a curve, and he could throw it only about a half dozen times in an afternoon—but it was a curve.

Griffith walked up behind Gaspar on the day he had set for deciding the make up of his staff. Gaspar was pitching. To Griffith's amazement, he saw Gaspar throw a beautiful incurve.



Harry Gaspar.

Four more followed. Then Griffith walked away.

Gaspar had cinched his job, but it has been recorded that he didn't pitch another real curve ball as long as he remained in the big show, although one of the best pitchers in the league that year.

Left-Handers Hit Hard.

There seems to be a lot of foolishness in the idea that left handed batters cannot hit the slants and shoots of southpaw twirlers. Most of the big league clubs carry an extra right-handed pinch hitter along so that they may send him against a left-handed twirler, but it seems a waste of money. Joe Jackson, Tris Speaker, Ty Cobb, Eddie Collins, Frank Baker, Sam Crawford, Larry Doyle, Dave Robertson, Frank Schulte, Harry Hooper, Jake Daubert, Bert Shotton, Gus Williams and Fred Luderus are all left-handed hitters, yet they club the offerings of port-side pitchers with as much frequency and eclat as they do those that are served up by the starboard twirlers.

Pitcher Swann Released.

Pitcher Harry Swann was unconditionally released on July 11 by President Weeghman, of the Chicago Federals. Swann was signed for one year by Manager Tinker, but has been unable to get control of the ball, and the president of the Chiffets made a cash settlement with him last Saturday. He returned to his home in Pittsburgh.

BASEBALL NOTES

Shore of the Red Sox is proving a valuable addition to Bill Carrigan's pitching staff.

George McConnell, the old Yankee pitcher, ranks second in batting in the International league.

Joe Cantillon claims that Rondeau is the best hitter that he ever had on his Minneapolis team.

Mike Mitchell is finding the pitching in the American league more to his liking than that in the National.

If Bill Wambegass, Cleveland's new shortstop, will rip up his moniker and use a remnant, all will be forgiven.

Al Platte of the Providence team is the real batting leader among the regular performers of the International league.

Manager Joe Tinker of the Buns is not batting so well in the Federal league as he did in the National last season.

Silk O'Laughlin, the veteran umpire of the American league, is an insurance solicitor during the winter months.

Steve Yerkes of the Red Sox has jumped to the Feds, according to the latest report. He will play with the Pittsburgh team.

Harry McCormick, former pinch hitter of the Giants, has been a big success as manager of the Chattanooga team this season.

"The White Sox are not only hitless wonders, but they are also ruthless and victorious wonders in the bargain," says Jimmy Isaminger.

Dressen of the Cardinals seems to be a pretty shifty sort of first baseman. He is a rangy fellow and of the highly approved left-handed style.

They say the umpires are not hounded so much this summer as they were last. The guy who wrote that hasn't seen the Baltimore Federals on the field.

Manager George Stallings of the Boston Braves thinks that New York's main interest in the coming world's series will center around Dick Rudolph of the Bronx.

The poor showing of the Cleveland Naps doesn't seem to affect the fine batting of Joe Jackson. The great slugger continues to lead the American league batters.

The New York club has purchased catcher Harry Smith from the Savannah club of the South Atlantic league. Smith is a .300 hitter and is said to be fast on the bases.

Third Baseman Hemingway, one of the Rickey rookies, who is serving a post-graduate minor league course with the Nashville club of the Southern league, has scored a big hit with Nashville fans.

Happy Felch will never be hurt and kept out of the game for a year, live-Larry Chappell, his friends say, because he is too tough to be hurt even if he bumped into the concrete stand at Comiskey park.

Manager Branch Rickey of the St. Louis Browns has been on a little scouting expedition of his own. Rickey would like to get a hard-hitting catcher to help Sam Agnew out, as he wishes to use Jack Leary at first base all the time.

BATTING SYSTEM IS QUERIED

New Scheme of Secretary Rickart of Federal League, Is of Much Interest to Ball Fans.

Lloyd H. Rickart, secretary of the Federal league, who is sponsor for the scheme of having two batting averages compiled, one for the right handers and the other for the left handers, has received from all over the country queries and comments regarding the innovation.

Baseball magnates and players throughout the country have taken a deep interest in the scheme, which is entirely original with Mr. Rickart, and is likely to be adopted sooner or later by all the leagues, as his arguments in favor of the new batting record system are convincing.

Mr. Rickart argues that, as the batter stands closer to first base when he bats left handed and the natural force of his stroke helps to place him in his stride, he has a big advantage over the right hander, who stands on the other side of the home plate when he hits and is out of stride after his stroke at the ball and must get under way without the running start of the left hander.

It can be readily seen, therefore, that a slow runner who bats left handed has a big advantage over a fast runner who bats right handed. It can also be seen that many of the batting stars of the country owe their high batting records to the fact that they swing left handed.

Supposing that two runners, one left handed and the other right handed, take practically the same length of step and are practically of equal speed on the bases, it therefore follows that the two yard handicap that the left hander has over the right hander on account of his batting position oftentimes will enable him to beat out a grounder that the right hander would be thrown out on by a close decision.

The distance from home plate to first is ninety feet and, supposing that the two runners each make the distance in thirty steps, the left hander, therefore, has practically two steps advantage, or 6.23 per cent. In other words, if the batting percentages of the two men are equal at the end of the season, the right hander is really 6.23 per cent the best.

GROWING ABUSE OF PITCHERS

Rule Makers Should Put a Stop to Use of Rosin and Other Foreign Substances by Batters.

"Pitcher Demaree of the Giants pushes the ball from his shoulder like a shot putter and uses plenty of rosin, which he carries in his hip pocket. This rosin business is getting to be too much of a good thing. Greg of the Naps had his left trouser leg covered with it so that he could put it on his fingers before delivering the ball. The rulemakers ought to put a stop to the use of rosin and other foreign substances by the pitchers, who already have an immense advantage over the batsmen. The foul-strike rule, the spit ball and the raised box helps the pitcher."



Pitcher Al Demaree of New York Giants.

ers immeasurably without other methods for keeping the hitters in submission. Yes, the rosin will have to go!"

Noisiest Infield.

From the quietest of the Yankees have evolved the noisiest infield in the American league, writes a New York critic. Hal Williams and Frank Truesdale, when playing never had a great deal to say, but Boogie and Mullen, their successors, are jabbering away at their pitcher or any one else in sight most of the time. Which may be one reason why the Yankee infield defense is about 20 per cent more effective than it was.

Handy in a Pinch.

Bill Sweeney of the Cubs has been the player most prominent in driving in the winning tallies in the tight games in which his team has participated. He has been on the break-up job four times, his war club bringing victory to Chicago in the ninth inning twice, in the tenth inning once and in the sixteenth inning once.

Hard Hitting Braves.

The batting of Connolly and Evers has played a very prominent part in the uplift of the Braves from a tail-ender to an almost certain first division finisher. Both are firing with the 300 mark. Maraville is having a fairly good season with the bat, hitting about .260.

Hits Century Mark.

Tommy Leach was the first National league player to reach the century mark in base hits. Some of the ball playing shown by the veteran this season would have been a big help to the Pirates, from which club Leach was turned over to the Cubs two years ago.

Minor Leagues Growing.

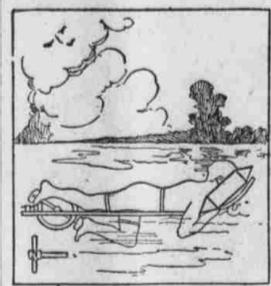
The men of organized ball are facing a problem to keep the minor leagues from showing their disaffection this fall when the drafting season begins. There has been much growing about the injustice of the draft all summer.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION

SKEE AIDS SWIMMING AT SEA

Machine Invented by Californian Drives Operator Through the Water at Rapid Rate.

What is called a skimming skee has been invented recently by a native of the California coast, by which its operator will be driven through the water by the aid of propellers at a rapid rate, head-first, as if shot from a rocket. The apparatus comprises a board with an upwardly turned float on the front end, while the other end is supplied with a propeller to be



Skee for Swimmer.

manipulated by the feet of the operator as his body rests along the length of the board. The body of the operator reposes in an almost horizontal position, and as the propeller drives him through the water his body offers the least possible resistance because of the angle which it describes.

RADIOACTIVITY OF THE BODY

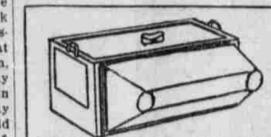
Examination by German Scientist Shows Different Organs Contain Some Electric Substance.

In his investigation of the radioactivity of the organs of the human body, Dr. Albert Cahn of Heidelberg has examined 41 organs from 12 different persons, and every one of them contained some substance that made the air electrically conductive, as shown by the Brecker emanometer. It was concluded that this substance must be radioactive, though possibly not radium itself. The brain, and also the lungs, proved very active; but the heart and liver were less so, and the kidneys and spleen showed only slight activity. The radioactive substance seemed to increase with age and in disease. Little effect was shown from such conditions as social position, occupation or manner of living, and even locality of living was unimportant. Radioactive substances—the effect of which on the vital activity of the body cells remains to be learned—might come from food and drink, or from the air. The testing emanometer includes a receptacle for the ashes of about 100 grains of the organ under test, and this is connected by electric wires and a rubber tube to a wire electrometer—with a microscope for fine reading—in the circuit of a storage battery.

DARK ROOM MADE PORTABLE

Box Has Hinged Sides and is Collapsible—Apparatus is Easily Carried When Folded.

Of the various portable dark rooms on which patents have been granted, one of the best is that devised by an Indiana man. The box has hinged sides and is collapsible. When set up it has a shield in the top for the user's face and is so shaped that it fits around the features and does not admit light there. Entrance to the box is through a flexible and lightproof hood, which has elastic armholes. A slide across the face keeps the light from penetrating through the armholes when they are not occupied. Slides containing sheets of material



Folding Dark Room.

impervious to the actinic rays are fitted in several other places to admit enough harmless light for the operator to see the work by. This apparatus is easily carried when collapsed and can be set up anywhere, even outdoors.

Disease of Centuries Ago.

Examination of especially well-preserved mummies by European scientists recently, has shown that tuberculosis of the spine and malaria were common ills in Egypt 15 centuries ago.

Holding Sticky Fly-Paper.

To hold sticky fly-paper, there has been invented a holder sufficiently heavy to prevent it blowing away, while a wire framework on top prevents anything but insects reaching the surface.

To Detect Icebergs.

To enable ships' officers to detect their approach to icebergs there has been invented a microthermometer so delicate that it registers changes in sea-water temperature to one-thousandth of a degree.

World Would Grow Hotter.

According to an English scientist, if the radium in the interior of the earth is in any way equal to that in the rocks at the surface the world will grow hotter in time instead of colder.

CURE FOR FUNGUS POISONING

Antitoxin Enables Epicure to Devour Toadstools Without Fear of Any Injurious Results.

It may be comforting to the epicure who trembles every time he calls for mushrooms lest the cook has inadvertently slipped in a poisonous fungus or so, to know that an antitoxin can be made from the most poisonous varieties of mushrooms which if injected in case of fungus poisoning is just as effective as the common antitoxins for diphtheria and rabies. In addition to this, if the mushroom eater is in sufficient fear of poisoning and is so fond of mushrooms it would be possible after a series of frequent injections of the poison covering a period of several months to inoculate him so that he could wander out into the fields and devour toadstools raw without worse effects than a possible indigestion.

The French scientists Radia and Sartorius were the men who made this convincing discovery, and the plants from which they made their virus were the frightfully poisonous amanita phalloides and the amanita mappa. The original experiments were made upon rabbits and were highly successful.

PROTECTS MARKSMAN'S HEAD

Sharpshooter Need Not Now Be Compelled to Expose Himself When Shooting From Trench.

Much of the modern warfare is conducted from trenches thrown up by the soldiers, from behind which sharpshooters keep up a fire back and forth. By watching closely the source of the shooting may be closely located, and then as the head of the marksman rises over the embankment it is necessary for him to expose himself. It is only for a second, but it is long enough for the enemy's sharpshooters to pick him off. There has been recently invented a weapon which makes this exposure unnecessary. The gun is rather heavier than the average,



Shooting From Shelter.

having a hollow tube adapted to be removably mounted upon and to extend longitudinally of the barrel and having front and rear sights so arranged with respect to the hollow tube as to be in alignment with the opening through a tube and visible to one sighting through the tube. Removable plugs are supplied with the weapon for closing the forward end of the tube and barrel, all so constructed as to enable the barrel and tube to be repeatedly forced into or through an embankment or earthworks in such a manner as to form a tunnel or aperture in the earth adapted to enable the firearm to be aimed or sighted and discharged while in the tunnel or opening thus formed and to prevent the earth from falling in upon the barrel and obscuring the sights, whereby the person using the firearm is enabled to be shielded and protected by the embankment through which the barrel and tube are thus inserted.

NOTES OF SCIENCE AND INVENTION

A ton of soot results from the burning of 100 tons of coal.

Folding rods, carrying wheels at their lower ends, have been patented to help bear the burden of hand baggage.

For window cleaners there has been invented an adjustable wire seat which can be suspended outside a window from the sill.

A sanitary drinking tube has been invented for use with any kind of container, so compact it can be carried in a vest pocket.

An American naval officer is the inventor of a writing tablet every other sheet of which is so cut and gummed that it can be folded and pasted to form an envelope.

After years of effort a Berlin inventor has succeeded in building a model man that can walk, talk, sing, laugh and whistle.

A new air rifle of high power is equipped with a safety device to prevent the trigger being pulled until its user wishes to do so.

An Illinois inventor's swimming machine is driven by a propeller operated by its user's hands and feet, while his chin attends to the steering.

Brief and repeated treatments with air superheated to 120 degrees, according to an English expert, will cure cancer in its early stages.

Yawning is favored as beneficial to the health by a Belgian scientist, who says that it aids all the breathing organs and exercises the throat and chest muscles.

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